



December, 15, 2000

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Marketing and  
Regulatory  
Programs

Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection  
Service

4700 River Road  
Riverdale, MD 20737

Subject: The Prohibition of the Importation of all Processed Animal Proteins from Countries Affected by Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE).

To: See DISTRIBUTION

As you are probably aware, the European Union (EU) Scientific Steering Committee has recently determined that animal feed which was not derived from ruminants has been cross-contaminated with the agent responsible for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). It is believed that cross contamination of ruminant feed with nonruminant feed has prolonged the BSE epidemic in Europe. As a result the EU is suspending the use of all processed animal proteins in feed for food animals effective January 1, 2001.

APHIS has been carefully monitoring these events. We believe that the current situation in BSE-affected countries is a potential threat to the health and safety of U.S. livestock. Therefore, APHIS has taken emergency measures to mitigate this risk and to protect livestock, livestock producers and industries in the United States.

Effective December 7, 2000, APHIS prohibited the importation of all processed animal proteins and products derived from these proteins, regardless of species of origin, from countries that are either affected by BSE or that have an unacceptably high risk for BSE. The prohibited products include but may not be limited to: meat and bone meal (MBM), meat meal, bone meal, blood meal, protein meal, tankage, offal, or any product containing such. Importations from Europe and Oman are affected by this action. These countries are listed in Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 94.18(a)(1) and (2), as well as on the APHIS home page at [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov). Oman is included in this action because they are listed in the CFR as being affected with BSE. In addition, we will be requiring certifications on processed animal proteins from other countries in order to insure that the proteins have never been associated with products from Europe or Oman. An interim rule is being prepared and will be published in the Federal Register in the near future.

I ask for your immediate cooperation in discontinuing all shipments of processed animal proteins that have been associated in any way with animal protein products or processing plants in Europe or Oman.

I am aware that this prohibition places a burden upon you. However, APHIS' obligation to protect American agriculture is paramount. The steps we are taking are absolutely necessary to meet that obligation and prevent BSE from occurring in American livestock. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

*Andrea M. Morgan, DVM*

Andrea Morgan  
Director of Animal Health Programs  
Veterinary Services



APHIS - Protecting American Agriculture

An Equal Opportunity Employer